

City of Plattsburgh Common Council Work Session Minutes

March 20th, 2014

Councilors in Attendance: Rachelle Armstrong, Mike Kelly, Paul O'Connell, Becky Kasper & Joshua Kretser

Becky Kasper asked the City Supervisors in attendance if the structured committee format, historically used during Council work sessions, has been an effective way to operate.

Mike Brodi responded that it depends on the Meeting.

Anne de la Chappelle said that it would have been helpful in the past to organize the meetings according to the topics being discussed for improved efficiency. She also stated that the City of Watertown instructs its department heads and managers to submit a monthly report to the Council for increased efficiency of communication.

Becky Kasper stated that she does not want to waste anyone's time, which is why she wants to redevelop a formal committee structure.

Becky Kasper suggests that the Council form three main committees where new ideas can be more effectively addressed. She proposes the three committees be made up of:

1. Quality of Life - This would include community relations, public safety, dog waste and etc.
2. Economic and Cultural Development – This would include ideas for development
3. Infrastructure – This would include roads, public works, engineering, MLD and etc.

Becky Kasper states further that at the end of any given month the last formal council meeting would be the appropriate time for any new business to be introduced. Whichever ideas are decided to be examined would be sent to the appropriate committees for review. The engaged committees would meet to discuss the new business during the first week of the next month. The committee report would be presented to the council the second week at the formal Council meeting. The third week there would be a work session of the entire council where it would be decided what ideas submitted by the committees would be ready to be formed into a resolution.

Finally, in the fourth week the council would vote on whatever resolutions had been formed.

Mike Kelly put forth an idea for a resolution to deal with the issues pertaining to snow removal in the City. He suggested the City:

1. Create a snow patrol of volunteers
2. Create a snow patrol of resident hired paid snow removers
3. Create a webpage and brochure for snow removal and snowstorm parking tips
4. Develop a publicity campaign for the Fall – get the word out that help is available for those who cannot do it themselves but the law will be enforced
5. Find out how police, building inspectors and DPW can help enforce the law (hopefully reps from each of the departments will be present)
6. Establish some metrics on number of cars towed and number of sidewalks cleaned and make some goals for improvement in 2014-2015. Use these metrics to gauge our success going forward.

Joshua Kretser suggested the idea of doing some brainstorming and comprehensive planning with North Country residents, community leaders and downtown business owners to see if there is any interest in creating a destination for pedestrian foot traffic through permanent street closures in downtown Plattsburgh.